

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-7, 11-21, and 24-28 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-5, 12, 13, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ebuchi et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,392,462 (hereinafter "Ebuchi").

II. Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have canceled claims 6, 12, 13, and 28 without prejudice. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 6. Applicants have amended claim 7 to refer to claim 1. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

III. Applicants' Reply to the § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-5, 12, 13, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ebuchi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

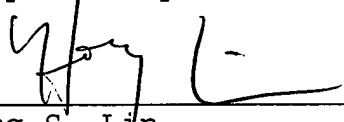
Applicants have canceled claims 12, 13, and 28 without prejudice. This rejection of these claims is moot and should therefore be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of dependent claim 6, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-5 and 7, which depend from independent claim 1, are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable claim.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-5, 7, 11, 14-21, and 24-27 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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